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IS RUSSIA REALLY AHEAD IN MISSILE RACE?

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CPYRIGHT Answers From People Who Know Most

This is what top U. S. and Russian officials now reveal, in their own words, about the hot race for a superweapon.

Khrushchev: Russia "soon" will have a missile to deliver H-bombs anywhere.

Eisenhower: That will take time to produce, after "secret" is worked out.

Twining: No new Soviet missile can do a job that cannot be done by U. S. planes.

Quarles: Russians are not ahead yet.

Allen Dulles: Khrushchev exaggerates.

Radford: Money not the U. S. problem.

Power: Technicians in U. S. are better.

Wilson: Russia advances, U. S. leads.

A big and growing argument is under way in the United States over this question: Who is ahead in today's arms race, the Soviet Union or the U. S.?

Nikita Khrushchev, No. 1 man in the Soviet Union, made two bragging statements in London, on April 23, bearing on this question. He said these things:

1. "I am quite sure we shall have very soon a guided missile with a hydrogen-bomb warhead which could hit any point in the world."

2. "The Soviet Army already has exploded an H-bomb from an airplane. The United States only now is intending to do this. The United States' first H-bomb explosion was from a ground installation."

Point No. 1 drew reactions in the U. S., from President Eisenhower on down the ranks, civilian and military.

Point No. 2 brought no official comment. An H-bomb was exploded by the U. S. at Bikini Atoll, in the Pacific, on March 1, 1954. This bomb could have been dropped from an airplane. Actually, it is understood to have been set off from atop a steel tower, to insure accuracy. Resulting radioactive "fall-out" covered a large area of the Pacific, dropped on some Japanese fishermen 80 miles from the blast.

President Eisenhower, asked on April 25 about the Russian claim concerning a supermissile, said this:

"Now, I know of no reason why any—the Soviets should be making misstatements in this field. And I certainly, I don't accuse them of any such thing. But I do want to point out, there is a very, very long distance between a laboratory capacity or capability of doing something and making an instrument, a really efficient, effective instrument of war."

Gen. Nathan F. Twining, Chief of Staff of the U. S. Air Force, said in a speech the same day:

"I wish to emphasize that both in our Air Force and in the Red Air Force, missiles are merely another potential weapon. Powerful to be sure, but not magic. No missile can do a job that cannot now be done with combat airplanes. The missile's only advantage is a potentially greater efficiency—costwise—than aircraft."

Donald A. Quarles, Secretary of the Air Force, had said in a speech in New York that:

"In the argument about which side is ahead, I will quote a recent statement by Sir Frederick Brundrett, who heads scientific research and development in the British Ministry of Defense: 'I think it is possible that the Russians might be ahead of Britain in the ballistic-missile field, but they definitely are not ahead of the United States.' This is a well-informed and, I believe, a sound estimate of the situation."

Allen W. Dulles, U. S. Central Intelligence Director, also hinted that Khrushchev might be exaggerating. Mr. Dulles told reporters on April 24:

"I don't think he [Khrushchev] is given to minimizing things. I think what he had to say is a little bit on the high side."

General Twining, on April 25, told how U. S. is giving top priority to its own big-missile program. He said:

"The Air Force has recently released the information that we are giving top priority to three missile projects. These are ballistic missiles. Two of them are long-range or intercontinental missiles, and one is our intermediate-range ballistic missile. As an alternate to the Air Force IRBM [intermediate-range ballistic missile]

project, the Army and Navy have been assigned responsibility to develop the Redstone for possible use as another IRBM."

Adm. Arthur W. Radford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in testimony before Congress, just released, that there is no shortage of money for the U. S. missile project. He stated:

"I feel certain, Mr. Chairman, that in the request for funds in the bill that is before your Committee that problem [of money for developing an intercontinental ballistic missile at maximum speed] has been taken care of, and all the money that can be spent in the time that is covered in the bill is in the request.

"I am also certain the Secretary of Defense would come back and ask for additional funds if the situation developed to show we were wrong in our estimate of how fast we can move."

Lieut. Gen. Thomas S. Power, chief of the USAF Air Research and Development Command, gave this new appraisal of U. S. vs. Russian technicians:

"Thanks to our industry and to our scientific and educational institutions, we still possess qualitative superiority both in military technology and scientific brain power. . . . To the best of our knowledge, they [the Russians] still have fewer scientists and engineers than we have, and ours are probably, in general, more experienced and seasoned than theirs."

Charles E. Wilson, U. S. Secretary of Defense, too, had indicated at a recent news conference that the U. S. is still ahead in the arms race, but added:

"In spite of what I said about the missile business, I would like to make this comment—that there is too much emphasis put on this thing. That is only one weapon in the whole big, international picture, and, there is no question about it, the Russians do have capacity, both in development and manufacturing now."

Secretary Quarles had said about the same thing in a speech just before the Russian boast. He stated:

"While the addition of long-range guided missiles of both the ballistic and the nonballistic types with atomic warheads would be important additions to our atomic delivery systems, I have the strong feeling that much of the recent talk about ballistic missiles as the 'ultimate weapon' has been overdrawn and misleading. It implies that the emergence of these weapons on either side will completely upset the military balance of power.

"Our deterrent position is not dependent upon the availability to us of weapons of this kind—nor would our position be upset by the availability of such weapons to the Soviets, whether or not we had them at the same time. We should try to keep this whole matter in perspective and avoid any undue alarm."

Dr. Theodore von Kármán, chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's scientific-research arm, said in Munich on April 23 that:

"The German V-2 was inaccurate and it only traveled 200 miles. An intercontinental rocket would have

to go 5,000 miles and become involved with such problems as dodging space particles and the great intensity of cosmic rays.

"No one knows what effect traveling in outer space would have on the delicate control mechanism."

General Twining, on April 25, added this:

"It is perfectly true to state that there is no known defense against a ballistic missile. Standing alone, this statement has alarmed many people. What we must remember is that it is equally true that there is no known ballistic missile in the inventory of any armed force.

"Offense and defense capabilities always leapfrog each other. I am confident that when the time comes that one or both sides have effective, dependable, accurate bal-



—Crockett in the Washington Evening Star

"SPEAKING OF FISTS—SHAKEN OR OTHERWISE"

listic missiles, the period in which there will be no defense will be either very short or nonexistent. In fact, the processes we go through in learning to build a ballistic missile will guide us in building a defense.

"I am certain that an anti-ICBM will be built."

President Eisenhower, at his April 25 press conference, concluded:

"Now I do believe this: You can scarcely overemphasize the psychological value of such a weapon, because it has sort of a terrifying, let us say, result upon the human mind to think of something flying on through space at several times the speed of sound and at tremendous altitudes, and coming down then with these great hydrogen-bomb bursts. It would be a terrific thing. But, as I pointed out, those things are not simple. They are very expensive, and it will take a long time to produce them, even after the secret is first achieved."